

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A splint for immobilizing and supporting a body part of a human, wherein said splint comprises:

a) an inflatable main body structured to fit a shape and structure of a body part to be immobilized being composed of a leg having a curvature, a foot, an ankle and a heel, the inflatable main body comprising integrally made parts, which include leg parts for holding left and right sides of the leg, a part for wrapping a back of the leg, and a foot part for wrapping ankle and sole portions of the foot, to cover the body part from three sides, leaving one side uncovered, the shape of the inflatable main body defining a curvature corresponding to the foot part of the leg between the ankle and sole portions, the inflatable main body comprising inflatable tubes for achieving variable degrees of support, stiffness and restriction of movement, said inflatable main body being made of a flexible material having two opposed edges, wherein said shape of the inflatable main body and arrangement of said inflatable tubes within said integrally made parts of the main body being such that when said tubes are inflated, the main body takes up the shape of said body part to provide maximum compatibility and prevent pressure on the heel, the integrally made ankle, foot and sole parts of the splint comprising the inflatable tubes containing parts arranged such that when the splint wraps the leg, the inflatable tubes containing parts extend along respectively the ankle, foot and sole;

b) at least one gas pressure source device connected to said splint; and

c) at least one adjustable member for connecting said two opposed edges together across said uncovered side of the body part in a manner to allow adjustment of the pressure and tightness of said splint on the body part.

2. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 1, wherein said at least one adjustable member is a strap made of Velcro.

3-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The splint according to claim 1, wherein said splint is made of two nylon layers joined together by soldering means.

8. (Original) The splint according to claim 1, wherein said splint is made of two nylon layers which are coated with polyurethane.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The splint according to claim 1, wherein the pressure source device is a hand pump.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 1 wherein the tightness of the splint on the body part is controlled by the fastening or loosening of the at least one adjustable member.

13. (Original) The splint according to claim 1 further including a suspension strap.

14. (Original) The splint according to claim 1 wherein pressure within the splint is controlled by a valve.

15. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 1 wherein the adjustable member is detachable.

16. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 1, further comprising at least one loop connected for suspension purposes.

17. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 16, wherein said at least one loop is connected at one of said edges.

18. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 12, wherein said at least one adjustable member is a strap made of Velcro.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A splint according to claim 1, comprising ventilation holes for skin ventilation contained in, and extending between the inflatable tube containing parts.

22. (Previously Presented) A splint according to claim 1, wherein inflation of said inflatable tubes fits the structure of the inflatable main body to the structure of the three sides of the body part covered by the inflatable main body.

23. (Previously Presented) A splint according to claim 1, wherein said inflatable main body is shaped to follow closely the shape of the body part when inflated.

24. (New) A splint for immobilizing and supporting a body part of a human, wherein said splint comprises:

a) an inflatable main body structured to fit a shape and structure of a body part to be immobilized being composed of a leg having a curvature, a foot, an ankle and a heel, the inflatable main body comprising integrally made parts, which include leg parts for holding left and right sides of the leg, a part for wrapping a back of the leg, and a foot part for wrapping ankle and sole portions of the foot, to cover the body part from three sides, leaving one side uncovered, the shape of the inflatable main body defining a curvature corresponding to the foot part of the leg between the ankle and sole portions, the inflatable main body comprising inflatable tubes for achieving variable degrees of support, stiffness and restriction of movement and ventilation holes for skin ventilation contained in and extending between the inflatable tube containing parts, said inflatable main body being made of a flexible material having two opposed edges, wherein said shape of the inflatable main body and arrangement of said inflatable tubes within said integrally made parts of the main body being such that when said tubes are inflated, the main body takes up the shape of said body part to provide maximum compatibility and prevent pressure on the heel.

25. (New) The splint according to claim 24, wherein said splint is made of two nylon layers joined together by soldering means.

26. (New) The splint according to claim 24, wherein said splint is made of two nylon layers which are coated with polyurethane.

27. (New) The splint according to claim 24 wherein the tightness of the splint on the body part is controlled by the fastening or loosening of the at least one adjustable member.

28. (New) The splint according to claim 24 further including a suspension strap.

29. (New) A splint according to claim 24, wherein inflation of said inflatable tubes fits the structure of the inflatable main body to the structure of the three sides of the body part covered by the inflatable main body.

30. (New) A splint according to claim 24, wherein said inflatable main body is shaped to follow closely the shape of the body part when inflated.